

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

I. Petition to Delete Inventor

On January 22, 2001, Applicant's representative filed a petition to delete David Caplan as an inventor pursuant to 37 CFR §1.48(b). Applicant did not receive confirmation from the Office regarding whether or not the petition was granted. Applicant respectfully requests that such confirmation be provided.

II. Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 54, line 1 because "felt" should be "a felt". Applicant has amended claim 54 to correct this typographical error.

The Examiner objected to page 3 of the claims since "Claims 24-39 (canceled)" should read instead "Claims 24-36 (canceled)". Applicant has corrected this typographical error.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112

The Examiner rejected claims 15-21, 23 and 37-45 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Per the Examiner's recommendation, Applicant has inserted the phrase "of an adjacent holder" after the word "slot" on line 8 of claim 15 and on line 13 of claim 37.

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Accordingly, independent claims 15 and 37 are not indefinite. Claims 16-21 and 23 depend from claim 15. Claims 38-45 depend from claim 37. As such, the dependent claims are not indefinite for at least the reasons given in connection with their respective independent claims.

IV. Comments on the Examiner's Reason for Allowance

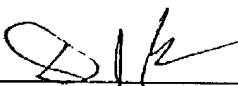
Reasons for allowance are only warranted in instances in which "the record of the prosecution as a whole does not make clear his or her reasons for allowing a claim or claims." In the present case, Applicant believes the record as a whole does make the reasons for allowance clear and therefore no statement by the Examiner is necessary or warranted. Furthermore, the Applicant does not necessarily agree with each statement in the reasons for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that these comments be placed in the application file.

V. Conclusion

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/15/2004

By: 
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<p>TRANSMITTAL FORM</p> <p>(To be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</p>		<p>Applicant Number: 09/025,228</p> <p>Filing Date: July 24, 2000</p> <p>First Named Inventor: Charles E. Tardor</p> <p>Art Unit: 3834</p> <p>Examiner Name: Khos H. Tran</p> <p>Attorney Serial Number: SHPR-01048US1</p>			
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<p>ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)</p>					
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<p>Remarks: Amendment transmitted via facsimile to: Eschert Khos H. Tran (705) 672-8037</p> <p>No fee to due.</p>					
<p>SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT</p> <p>Firm or Individual Name: Daniel J. Burns Signature: <i>[Signature]</i> Date: 3/15/2004 Customer Number: 23910</p>					
<p>CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage to first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22314-0450 on the date shown below.</p> <p>Typed or printed name: Brenda J. Dohy Signature: <i>[Signature]</i> Date: 3/15/04</p> <p>This section of information is required by 37 CFR 1.6. The information is required to obtain a receipt from the USPTO or the date of the USPTO to the person applying. Confidentiality is given by 37 CFR 1.62 and 37 CFR 1.63. This section is required to be filled out completely, including address, phone fax, and e-mail. The completed application form to the USPTO. This will vary depending upon the business case. Any certificate or the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for receiving this burden, should be given to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22314-0450. DO NOT SEND REPLY OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22314-0450.</p> <p>If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-5199 and select option 2.</p> <p>Attorney Docket No: SHPR-1048US1 BRM/DJB djb/aupt/1048US1 transmittal 3-04-2004 amendment.pdf</p> <p>PAGE 1/15 * RCVD AT 3/15/2004 4:48:56 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXXF-1/4 * DNIS:8729327 * CSID:415 362 2928 * DURATION (mm:ss):03:24</p>					

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